

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 12 and 20, add new claim 21 and amend claims 1, 3, 4 and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A combustion chamber assembly for use in a combustion-powered fastener driving tool, comprising:

a cylinder body;

a reciprocating probe assembly slidably disposed relative to said cylinder body between a first, extended position and a second, retracted position, said probe assembly configured for contacting a workpiece; and

at least one shock-absorbing member operationally associated with at least one of said cylinder body and said probe assembly for reducing shock load generated by said tool during combustion and transmitted between said probe assembly and said cylinder body;

said probe assembly includes an upper probe including at least one arm portion configured for sliding relationship relative to said cylinder body and having an upper end, said at least one shock-absorbing element disposed between said upper end and a corresponding element of said cylinder body for transmitting loads from said probe assembly to said cylinder body;

wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is configured for reducing load forces generated in a combustion chamber of said assembly upon

said probe assembly reaching said second position, and being configured to have sufficient rigidity to limit the travel of said probe assembly relative to said cylinder body and also sufficient resilience for absorbing shock forces generated by the tool in said second position.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 2~~1~~, wherein said upper probe includes a substantially perpendicular lip at said upper end for contacting said at least one shock-absorbing element.

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 2~~1~~ wherein said cylinder body defines a track for the slidable relative movement of said probe assembly, and said at least one shock-absorbing member is configured for slidable movement in said track.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4 wherein said cylinder body includes at least one tab for defining an upper limit of movement of said probe assembly.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5 wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is configured for common travel with said probe assembly to said tab.

7. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 4 wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is freely slidable in said track.

8. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5 wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is secured to one of said probe assembly and said tab.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 6 wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member includes a first portion secured to said probe assembly and a second portion secured to said tab.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 7 wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is configured to be substantially complementary with said path.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one shock-absorbing member is generally cylindrical in shape.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said probe assembly further includes a lower end, and wherein a single spring is located between said lower end of said probe assembly and a retaining ring, configured for biasing said probe assembly into the first position.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein said probe assembly is biased into said first position by a single conical spring associated with said probe assembly.

15. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 13, wherein one end of said spring is seated on said retaining ring.

16. (Previously presented) The combustion chamber assembly of claim 15, wherein a larger diameter end of said spring is mounted to said retaining ring and a smaller diameter end of said spring is mounted to said lower end of said probe assembly.

17. (Currently Amended) A combustion chamber assembly for use in a combustion-powered fastener driving tool, comprising:

a cylinder body;

a reciprocating probe assembly slidably mounted to said cylinder body between a first, extended position and a second, retracted position and having a lower end; and

a single spring disposed externally on said tool between said lower end of said probe assembly and a retaining ring and configured for biasing said probe assembly into the first position.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 17, wherein said single spring is a conical spring.

19. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 17, wherein a larger diameter end of said spring is mounted to said retaining ring and a smaller diameter end of said spring is mounted to said probe assembly.

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A combustion chamber assembly for use in a combustion-powered fastener driving tool, comprising:

a cylinder body;

a reciprocating probe assembly slidably disposed relative to said cylinder body between a first, extended position and a second, retracted position, said probe assembly configured for contacting a workpiece; and

at least one shock-absorbing member operationally associated with at least one of said cylinder body and said probe assembly for reducing shock load generated by said tool during combustion and transmitted between said probe assembly and said cylinder body;

said probe assembly includes an upper probe including at least one arm portion configured for sliding relationship relative to said cylinder body and having an upper end, said at least one shock-absorbing element disposed between said upper end and a corresponding element of said cylinder body for transmitting loads from said probe assembly to said cylinder body; and

said probe assembly further includes a lower end, and wherein a single spring is located between said lower end of said probe assembly and a retaining ring, configured for biasing said probe assembly into the first position.